

THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Poetry.

THE SAILOR'S WEDDING.

BY THOMAS SILTON.

"O loitering ship! O sailor, cried,
"Now speed my home to meet my bride!"
The ship, through flying spray,
Went bounding over her way."

II.

"O midnight bair! my watch is done;
O happy morrow! I have the sun."
Then down he lay and slept,
And in his dream he waked.

III.

He dreamt that suddenly the waves
Broke fixed and green, like myrrh-bound graves.
Beneath them lay the dead.
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IV.

"Land ho!" the deck-washed, with cheers:
The ship in shore! The cabin door.
The bride in white all dressed,
Was in her grave at rest!

Our Story-Teller.

THE HUNDRED POUND NOTE.

CHAPTER I.

Summoned to a Death-Bed.

The curate of a quiet country parish has neither to work as hard as his brethren in great cities, nor, as a rule, does he meet with those strange and startling experiences which it is often their lot to witness. Still, at times, singular events cross the path of the rural clergyman, and it is well that he should be very familiar with them, because of the calm and equable monotony of his ordinary life. Such an adventure once befell myself; and as, though it happened several years ago, I retain a remarkably distinct recollection of it, I think the reader may be glad to see it in print.

I was summoned in my study one sultry Saturday afternoon in July, putting the finishing touches to the sermon which I had been requested to preach the next day at Foxford Church, behalf of the Foxford Dispensary, who had kindly's daughter tapped gently at the study-swing.

"If you please, sir, David Dymond has come to say that his father's a dead worse, and would you be kind enough to step down and see him?"

As I have always made it a rule never to allow any other cleric to enter my study, I stepped down at once, and, at once took up my hat. On going out, I found David standing in the porch, conversing in low, earnest tones with Mrs. Worth, the daughter of my landlord. I had not seen Mrs. Worth since the time when a pretty picture the youthful pair would be seen seated on an artist's pencil. David was a tall, broad-shouldered, handsome young fellow, whose originally fair complexion was bronzed out-brown by perpetual exposure to the weather. His hair was light and curling, his eyes deep blue, and his countenance was marked with a wide-brimmed straw hat and a long, shirt-sleeved added to the unadulterated picturesqueness of his appearance. He was an excellent type of that noble Saxon breed which is apt to degenerate in great towns, and is only to be seen in perfection in rural districts. Mrs. Worth, in her dress, was a picture of slender, graceful figure, with glossy black hair, which made the delicate coloring of her face seem all the fairer by the force of contrast. As soon as I drew near, the young man hastily dropped a hand which he had been holding behind his back, and a consciousness of both in others' faces, I said "I lovers," for it was curiously reported in Headington that a mutual affection existed between these two young people, and it was affirmed with equal confidence that old Worth, the wheelwright, would never permit them to marry, he could not afford the match. The Dymonds were well known to us in social position. Mr. Worth was a master mechanic; owner of several cottages in the village, and with a vast sum of money—nearly two hundred pounds, it was asserted—invested in the bank at Foxford. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dymond had a comfortable little home, and, though the harvest time had never in the course of a long and industrious life earned more than ten shillings a week. It is true that David had been emancipated from the self-like thralldom which had bound his father, for he had received a good education, and was now in receipt of a good wage. Still this did not remove the inequality which in Mr. Worth's eyes existed between the two families. In addition to this obstacle, David had a half-brother named Reuben, and Mr. Worth was told that his daughter should even call him a son, if she would be allowed to do so.

So the young people sighed for each other in secret, and exchanged mutual vows of affection whenever they happened, as in the present instance, to be for a few moments alone together.

"Hug your pardon, sir," said David, touching his hat respectfully, "but I think you had better take your umbrella. There's a storm coming up over you-der."

David was quite right. I had been so engrossed by my sermon that I had taken no note of the threatening aspect of the weather, and was not surprised that the huge bank of accumulated clouds was in the north, and was slowly drifting in our direction against the lower current of wind. So I accepted the young wheelwright's advice, and took my umbrella.

We then walked briskly away together, followed by a tempestuous shower from the north, which was more eloquent than a score of spoken words.

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